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Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 50/203, 51/69, 52/100, 53/120 and 55/71, the present report provides updated information on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women by intergovernmental bodies, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations. The report is the third such report presented on a rolling basis in 2001 to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

* A/56/150.

** The present report was submitted on 23 August 2001 in order to allow departments of the Secretariat and other entities in the United Nations system sufficient time to submit their contributions.



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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, by resolution 55/71 of 4 December 2000, requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration¹ and the Platform for Action² adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and S-23/3).

2. In each of the three reports submitted on a rolling basis in the course of a year, information is provided that is most pertinent to the intergovernmental body concerned, in order to facilitate the decision-making process. The present report contains information on the activities undertaken by the organizations of the United Nations system, including United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and international financial institutions, and by non-governmental organizations and other actors in civil society.

3. The present report provides an update of the developments that have taken place since the submission of the reports of the Secretary-General to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session (A/55/293), the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fifth session (E/CN.6/2001/2) and the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001 (E/2001/78).

II. Results of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council with regard to the advancement of women, the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

4. The Economic and Social Council, at its high-level segment in 2001, discussed the role of the United Nations system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development. In its ministerial declaration, the Council recognized the need to promote the role of women in social and economic development, including by ensuring their participation in the political and economic life of

African countries. It called upon the United Nations to support African countries in promoting economic and social policies that are pro-poor and gender-sensitive, and which included employment and income-generating opportunities for poor people, women and youth through microfinance, community-based development and decentralization, enterprise development, food security plans, adequate nutrition and land tenure.

5. The Council devoted the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2001 to access to and transfer of knowledge and technology as a way of boosting economic progress in developing countries, including African nations, with the emphasis placed on improving access to information and communication technology (ICT). In its agreed conclusions on the matter, the Council, noting that participation in the globalized economy required competence in ICT, called, among other things, for developed nations to share with developing countries and countries in economic transition their experience in promoting and establishing ICT sectors so that mistakes could be avoided and benefits maximized. The Council stated that ICT needed to be considered in the broader context of the overall priorities and socio-economic structures of developing countries. It was recognized that ICT can contribute to the empowerment of women and to reducing gender inequalities. In that regard, it was considered that best practice and lessons learned by countries and communities that had already implemented ICT programmes needed to be drawn from and built upon.

6. In a resolution on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, on improving the working methods of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Council welcomed the efforts of its functional commissions to mainstream a gender perspective in their work.

7. At the same session, the Council considered a number of issues related to women under the segment on social and human rights questions. The Council decided to establish, under the regular agenda item entitled "Coordination, programme and other questions", the regular sub-item entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system", in order to, inter alia, monitor and evaluate achievements made and obstacles encountered by the United Nations

system, and to consider further measures to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system. The Council called upon the Secretary-General, in future reports to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Council and the General Assembly on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to assess progress made on mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system, including by providing information on key achievements, lessons learned and best practices, and to recommend further actions and strategies for future action within the United Nations system. Further, it called upon the Secretary-General and all bodies reporting to it to address the gender aspects of issues before the Council in their reports. The Council decided to devote the coordination segment of one of its substantive sessions, before 2005, to the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Council on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.³

8. The Council adopted several resolutions recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women, including a resolution concerning discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan, in which the Council deplored the deteriorating economic, social and cultural conditions of women and girls in all areas of Afghanistan, in particular in areas under the control of the Taliban.⁴ It also adopted a resolution on proposals for a multi-year programme of work for the Commission on the Status of Women for 2002-2006,⁵ which includes a multi-year work programme for the effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and a resolution on agreed conclusions of the Commission on thematic issues,⁶ in which it endorsed agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission with respect to the two thematic issues, namely, women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS, and gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

9. The Council also adopted a resolution on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,⁷ in which the Council demanded that Israel comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, among other

international agreements, in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families. Also adopted was a resolution on the revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), in which the Council recommended that the General Assembly consider the approval of a supplement for 2002 in order to provide the Institute with one more year of financial security, and invited the Assembly to consider requesting the Joint Inspection Unit to conduct a review of the INSTRAW Trust Fund and an urgent evaluation of the activities of the Institute, including options for the Institute's future.

10. The Council also adopted several decisions recommended to it by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-seventh session, including a decision in which it approved the Commission's recommendations that a gender approach be systematically adopted throughout the preparations for and in the outcome of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held at Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001, and that the situation of women and children be given special attention in the outcome of the Conference.⁸

11. The Council also adopted a decision on integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system,⁹ in which it approved the Commission's request to all special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Commission and Subcommission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights regularly and systematically take a gender perspective into account in implementing their mandates. In another decision on traditional practices affecting the health of women and the girl child,¹⁰ the Council endorsed the decision of the Subcommission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the topic for two more years.

III. Organizations of the United Nations system

12. Since the submission to the General Assembly of the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/55/293), the organizations of the United Nations system have continued to assist in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and

Platform for Action, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Information received by the United Nations Secretariat on the programmes, policies and other activities undertaken for the implementation of the Platform for Action by United Nations entities is summarized below. The present report does not contain information on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), since a separate report on its activities will be before the General Assembly.

A. United Nations

13. The *Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women* of the United Nations Secretariat continued to support and monitor efforts to incorporate a gender perspective into the substantive work programmes throughout the United Nations system. Within the Secretariat, a competence development programme is being implemented in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Office for Human Resources Management. The programme will conclude at the end of 2001 with a meeting of all Professional staff to review findings and recommendations. It will be followed by a special programme for the Division for the Advancement of Women aimed at further developing catalytic roles to support gender mainstreaming throughout the United Nations. A competence development programme is being developed for the United Nations Office at Vienna, in collaboration with the Office of Human Resources Management.

14. In November 2000, an assessment was made of the incorporation of a gender perspective into the substantive work of the Economic Commission for Europe, and a comprehensive report prepared with findings and recommendations. The management of the Commission has taken steps to ensure the implementation of the recommendations. Similarly, an assessment was made of the gender mainstreaming efforts of the United Nations Office at Vienna in 2001, and training in gender mainstreaming was provided for the field representatives of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. An assessment of good practice in gender mainstreaming has been carried out in the Office of Legal Affairs.

15. The Office of the Special Adviser organized a workshop on gender mainstreaming for the members of

the Inter-agency Meeting on Women and Gender Equality of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, in conjunction with the annual session of the Meeting, which was held in New York from 27 February to 2 March 2001. The fourth joint workshop of the Meeting and the Working Party on Gender Equality at the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development was held at the United Nations Office at Vienna, from 23 to 25 April 2001. The Meeting addressed governance, poverty reduction and gender equality, and brought together participants from a range of organizations from the United Nations system and representatives from the member countries of the Development Assistance Committee.

16. As follow-up to the open discussion on women, peace and security held by the Security Council in October 2001 and pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, on the same subject, the Special Adviser chairs an inter-agency task force on women, peace and security. The task force has prepared an action plan, outlining the ways in which the various parts of the system will contribute to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

17. The review of existing mechanisms and approaches for inter-agency cooperation, requested by the Administrative Committee on Coordination High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management, provided an opportunity to address the responsibilities for promoting gender equality both at the policy level, through the two Committees, and at working level, through the Inter-agency Meeting on Women and Gender Equality, and to sharpen the focus on gender mainstreaming in all policies, programmes and activities of the United Nations system. A set of recommendations aimed at reinforcing gender mainstreaming efforts within the United Nations system was submitted to the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

18. In order to ensure the continuity of the Beijing process and support the follow-up to the commitments taken with regard to gender mainstreaming and the advancement of women, the Special Adviser attended several conferences and meetings in various regions, including the First Summit of Arab First Ladies on Current Challenges and Future Prospects, held at Cairo from 18 to 20 November 2000; the third Africa Women's Forum, held at Tunis from 22 to 24 January

2001; and the workshop on the least developed countries, convened by the Government of South Africa and the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at Capetown, South Africa, from 21 to 23 March 2001 to discuss the question of building capacities for mainstreaming gender in development strategies. The Special Adviser also met with high-level officials to discuss strategies for the implementation of intergovernmental commitments and to provide information on efforts taken within the United Nations system. In statements and discussions, the Special Adviser has particularly stressed the need to ensure that a gender perspective is incorporated into the preparations for, outcomes of and follow-up to United Nations conferences and events, such as the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, held in New York from 25 to 27 June 2001; the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to be held at Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001; and the International Conference on Financing for Development to be held at Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002.

19. The Office of the Special Adviser also collaborated closely with the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with regard to preparations for the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 54/4, annex). The Special Adviser attended an expert meeting held on the proposed draft rules of procedure of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women relating to the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which was held at Berlin from 27 to 30 November 2000.

20. The *Division for the Advancement of Women* of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized three expert group meetings. The first, organized jointly with the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) on the theme "The HIV/AIDS pandemic and its gender implications", was held at Windhoek, from 13 to 17 November 2000. The second expert group meeting was organized in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNIFEM, on the theme "Gender and racial discrimination". Both expert group meetings developed

policy recommendations which were forwarded to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fifth session, held in March 2001. In collaboration with UNIFEM, the Division convened a third expert group meeting at Ulaanbaatar, from 4 to 8 June 2001. The meeting, on the theme "Situation of rural women within the context of globalization", addressed the social and economic challenges and opportunities faced by women in rural areas. The findings of the meeting were incorporated into the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/56/268), which is before the General Assembly at its current session.

21. The Division for the Advancement of Women, in collaboration with the Government of Germany, organized a meeting from 27 to 30 November 2000 to review and finalize the proposed draft rules of procedure for the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Division, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity and the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development, organized a consultative meeting on enhancing women's participation in peace-building at Addis Ababa, on 15 and 16 January 2001. The meeting reviewed current initiatives with regard to women and peace-building in sub-Saharan Africa, and identified gaps, as well as needs in regard to capacity-building. The Division also organized a subregional training workshop in support of the preparation of the State party reports to be submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The workshop was held at Auckland, New Zealand, from 13 to 15 February 2001, in collaboration with the Government of New Zealand, the secretariat of the Pacific Community, the office of the United Nations Development Programme in Fiji, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the UNIFEM regional office for the Pacific.

22. The *Statistics Division* of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs continues to carry out its mandate related to sex-disaggregated statistics, as outlined in the Platform for Action. Priority is given to improving methods for the measurement of work, specifically action to improve data on the full contribution of women and men to the economy. The Division continues to work on gender issues in the measurement of paid and unpaid work. Current activities include the development of a set of

international guidelines for collecting time-use data; the further development of a trial international classification of activities for time-use statistics; and the improvement of statistics on participation in difficult-to-measure sectors of the labour force.

23. The *Office of Internal Oversight Services* has developed an outline on how gender mainstreaming would be incorporated into the programme for internal oversight, especially the activities related to evaluation, monitoring and audit. As requested in the instructions for the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, the Office gave specific attention in its submission to gender mainstreaming, including the definition of objectives, accomplishments and indicators for the audit subprogramme. The Office has held discussions at the senior management level on the implementation of its commitment to incorporating a gender perspective into its internal analyses, policies and planning processes.

24. The *Department of Political Affairs* has placed increased emphasis on the role of women and the importance of gender mainstreaming in its work both at United Nations Headquarters and in the field. Several regional divisions maintain a roster of women's groups in the region in order to facilitate consultation in the course of political missions. The Electoral Assistance Division maintains a roster of election experts and seeks to increase the number of women listed. Efforts were made to ensure appropriate female representation in United Nations peace-building support offices, in particular in the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau. Similar efforts are being made regarding the staffing of the United Nations Office in Liberia. In the context of the Arusha Agreement on Burundi, the Implementation Monitoring Committee, which is chaired by the United Nations, participated in a two-day gender-mainstreaming workshop held in August 2001, which was convened by UNIFEM in consultation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region.

25. The *Department for Disarmament Affairs* collaborated with the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women in early 2001 in a production of the publication *Gender Perspectives on Disarmament — Briefing Notes*, which outlines gender perspectives on weapons of mass destruction, small arms, landmines, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and disarmament for development initiatives. In the preparations for the

United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 9 to 20 July 2001, the Department facilitated the focus on the impact on women. The preamble to the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference contains a specific reference to the negative impact on women. While there were no budget allocations for gender activities during the current biennium, the Department attempted to develop further the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in its substantive programme by using, to the greatest extent possible, its existing financial and human resources. For the biennium 2002-2003, the Department has included a gender component in each of its substantive subprogrammes.

26. Gender and peacekeeping training material has been developed by the *Department of Peacekeeping Operations* for military personnel and civilian police, with a view to enabling peacekeepers to integrate a gender perspective into all of their activities. The training material has been field-tested and is in the process of being finalized. A training curriculum on gender sensitivity for civilians is also being developed. In the light of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), the Department has drawn up a plan of action to implement the provisions of the resolution. Under this plan, the Department has strengthened its commitment to appointing women to senior posts at decision-making levels. It is also encouraging Member States to submit qualified female candidates for senior military appointments, and to serve as military observers and civilian police officers.

27. The offices of gender affairs in the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor have facilitated and supported efforts to mainstream a gender perspective within each mission. They have also supported national machineries for women in their respective host countries. Focal points for women have been appointed in many of the field missions.

28. In his most recent report on the implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/977), the Secretary-General recommended that the Department have adequate gender expertise at United Nations Headquarters so that a gender perspective is interwoven into all aspects of its work. In the light of this recommendation, the most recent budget submission for the Department to

the General Assembly includes a request for gender experts at Headquarters.

29. The *Department of Public Information* continued to generate media coverage of women's issues and events, at Headquarters and in the field, in its press coverage and promotion of the work of intergovernmental bodies, including the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The United Nations News Service focused on women's issues on a regular basis in its coverage of the work of relevant United Nations bodies and various other events and activities devoted to the promotion of women's rights. The issue of the advancement of women was routinely addressed as a regular output of the Video Section. The United Nations Radio programme, "Women", was instrumental in putting women's issues on air throughout the world. Cross-cutting issues relevant to women were given high priority in United Nations radio programmes that were broadcast in multiple languages. The publications prepared by the Department, such as *Basic Facts about the United Nations*, *UN Chronicle* and *UN in Brief*, have provided extensive coverage of the issues raised in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

30. The Department acted as lead agency for the organization of an inter-agency special event to observe International Women's Day 2001, under the theme "Women, peace and security: women managing conflict". The observance highlighted the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and focused on the international community's commitment to addressing the devastating impact of armed conflict on women, their critical role in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building, and the need to ensure the full participation of women in peace processes.

31. The *United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service*, as part of its information outreach, publications and communications programme, has frequently covered and reported on gender-related United Nations events and meetings. The publications of the Service are distributed to some 6,000 non-governmental organizations throughout the world, around 50 per cent of which are based in developing countries, and to over 1,000 development professionals in the United Nations system, government and bilateral

agencies. The major meetings covered include the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the forty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

32. The *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, together with the United Nations Population Fund, organized a meeting from 25 to 27 June 2001 on the application of human rights to reproductive and sexual health. The meeting defined action and recommendations for achieving a better implementation of treaty obligations at the domestic level so as to promote and ensure the enjoyment by women and men of reproductive and sexual health. Pursuant to the adoption by the Human Rights Committee, in 2000, of its General Comment No. 28, which updated its General Comment No. 4 (1981) on article 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, on equality of rights between men and women, and the adoption by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in the same year of its General Recommendation XXV on gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights embarked in 2001 on the preparation of a general comment on article 3 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on equality of rights between men and women.

33. The Office reflected gender concerns in its preparations for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. A publication on gender dimensions of racial discrimination was distributed during the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, and will be circulated during the Conference itself. The Office has singled out problems affecting girls in its input to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on children. It also co-sponsored, with the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Institutions and the Fiji Human Rights Commission, a regional workshop on the role of national institutions in advancing the international human rights of women, held in Fiji from 5 to 7 May 2001. The workshop affirmed the importance of international standards on the rights of women, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, its Optional Protocol, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, notwithstanding

countervailing cultural, traditional and religious practices.

34. At the secretariat of the *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*, the position of departmental focal point on women, dealing with both gender mainstreaming and the advancement of women in the secretariat, was consolidated through the creation of a new unit for civil society outreach within the executive direction and management programme of UNCTAD and the incorporation of the functions of the focal point into that office. Staff resources were therefore officially allocated to the function of departmental focal point. Efforts have been made to integrate gender-related aspects into the work programme, and to carry out consultations with substantive staff on gender-based budgeting.

35. The secretariat of UNCTAD undertook several activities related to gender, including in the preparation and organization of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, at Brussels, from 14 to 20 May 2001. A pre-Conference workshop on the theme "The least developed countries: building capacities for mainstreaming gender in development strategies", was held at Capetown, South Africa, in March 2001, to address poverty eradication, integrating a gender perspective into budgets and development strategies, trade, integrating a gender perspective into statistics, microcredit and private and public sector initiatives. The results of that meeting were made available to delegations at the Conference. Meetings related to gender and development issues were held with non-governmental organizations both during the sessions of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Conference and at the Conference itself. A meeting held on sustainable development and selected gender items in the least developed countries included representatives of non-governmental organizations active with regard to gender and development and to humanitarian issues. A high-level parliamentary round-table meeting was also held, concentrating on key issues on the agenda of the Conference, such as commodities and agriculture, capacity-building and new technologies for development, as well as financing for development, debt relief and capital flows. Gender and development were addressed as a cross-sectoral issue, and constitute part of the terms of reference of the parliamentary network set up to assist in the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference. A

special parallel event, the Women Entrepreneurs Forum, was held during the Conference and attracted a considerable number of delegates and civil society actors participating in the Conference.

36. During the biennium 2000-2001, the departmental focal point on women and staff of the Civil Society Outreach unit developed a proposal for a pilot project on developing new government and civil society alliances for addressing the gender and development dimensions of globalization. A meeting of delegates from interested countries and invited resource persons was held at Geneva in July 2001 to further define methodological aspects of the proposal for addressing the concrete requirements of participating countries during the implementation phase.

37. The *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)* continued to focus its efforts on ensuring gender equality in its personnel practices, and gender sensitivity in all of its projects and programmes. Gender equality is addressed in all sectoral and thematic work of UNEP. Further, the Governing Council of UNEP has adopted two decisions relevant to gender issues. Paragraph 19 of decision GCSS.VI/1 of 31 May 2001, on the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, provides that greater emphasis be given to a gender perspective in decision-making concerning the management of the environment and natural resources. In decision 21/19 of 9 February 2001, on the role of civil society, the Governing Council requested that the Executive Director submit for its consideration a draft strategy for the active engagement of civil society, including major groups, in the work of UNEP. These decisions further enhance the mandate of UNEP in mainstreaming a gender perspective into its projects and programmes.

38. UNEP has developed a strategy on mainstreaming a gender perspective in its policy, programming and operational procedures. The strategy is aimed at the establishment of mechanisms and accountability processes that would ensure the integration of gender equality into its policies, programmes and operations, building the capacity of its staff members and facilitating its contribution to the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The strategy will be considered by the senior management group of UNEP and will be issued as a policy directive. UNEP is also finalizing a framework for a global network of gender and environment focal points in

government and international non-governmental organizations. It will serve for the exchange of information and collection of data, as well as capacity-building, at the national, regional and international levels. UNEP has also produced and disseminated a publication that contains success stories on gender and environment.

39. The function of gender mainstreaming in the *United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)* has been consolidated within its reorganized structure, and its gender policy is accordingly being reviewed in 2001. Gender input to the work programme and budget for the biennium 2002-2003 were made by a subgroup, established by the cross-cutting gender task force. The medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 incorporates a gender perspective and the input of the Gender Policy Unit to the system-wide medium term plan for the advancement of women, by providing further guidance for the biennium 2004-2005.

40. A booklet on women and urban governance was published for the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly and is an integral part of the Global Campaign for Good Urban Governance. The theme for World Habitat Day in 2000, "Women in urban governance", influenced activities in towns and cities throughout the world. The Centre collaborated with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in supporting the Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Councillors, held in June 2001. Legal research on women's land and housing rights in East Africa is in the process of publication, as is a position paper on women and secure tenure. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on a housing rights programme comprises a major focus on women's property rights. Collaboration with partners included input to the discussion by the Commission on Human Rights, which led to the adoption of resolution 2001/34 of 23 April 2001 on women's equal ownership of, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing. Support to partners includes that provided to activities on women's land rights of the member networks of the Huairou Commission.

41. The *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)* recently completed a process of local and regional consultations with refugee, displaced and returnee women, culminating in a global dialogue held at Geneva from

20 to 22 June 2001. The aim of this process was to encourage UNHCR to involve women in all stages of planning, implementation and evaluation of projects, to provide better protection and to form equal partnerships with the refugee women themselves. A wide variety of issues of concern were raised by the women, ranging from equal access to documentation and asylum procedures to the trafficking of refugee women and girls. A 10-year review, carried out by the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, is currently assessing the implementation of the UNHCR policy on refugee women and its guidelines on the protection of refugee women. The review will be used to develop a new policy statement on gender mainstreaming.

42. A gender adviser was deployed as part of the emergency response teams following attacks at the Guinean border in 2000. The adviser worked with UNHCR staff, security forces and non-governmental groups to ensure that steps were taken to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, and to empower young girls and survivors of sexual violence through education and psychosocial support. Gender teams are being created in the Middle East, North Africa and countries in East Africa and the Horn of Africa in order to build the capacity of all staff to analyse and develop programmes from a gender perspective. UNHCR continues to support women's peace-building initiatives. At UNHCR, there has been increased collaboration across sectors and the inclusion of the empowerment of women as part of the strategy to mainstream a gender perspective into activities related to protection, programming and the achievement of durable solutions. Resource constraints remain a problem, however, as does the sustainability of changes when they are not made an integral part of policies, strategies, activities, monitoring and evaluation of protection and assistance activities.

43. Collaborative agreements have been established between the Women and Development Unit of the *Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)* and other substantive divisions that consider such issues as statistics, globalization, gender and trade, natural disasters and human settlements. One major result of this collaboration was from the First Americas Conference on Statistics, held at ECLAC headquarters in May 2001, which recognized the role played by ECLAC in the definition and calculation of gender indicators and agreed to the

formation of a working group on gender indicators as part of the Conference.

44. In order for the *Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)* to promote the participation of women in economic development, arrangements were made for women entrepreneurs to exhibit their products at the ESCAP Asian and Pacific Trade Fair 2000, held at New Delhi in November 2000. This activity resulted in many participants establishing business contacts within and beyond the region, and with some participants forming women business councils in their own country. A seminar on education and career opportunities in ICT and e-commerce for women was held concurrently. ESCAP, in collaboration with the Asian Women's Resource Exchange, an Internet-based women's information network and service, organized a regional training workshop on women's electronic network training at Seoul, in July 2001, in the context of phase two of the project on strengthening the women's information network through computer networking in the Asian and Pacific region. A follow-up study has found that most of the workshop participants had set up their own web sites, mailing lists or online discussion groups, and had conducted orientation and training.

45. ESCAP also organized an expert group meeting in May 2001, on social safety nets for women. The meeting proposed a new model of social protection that includes the extension of existing schemes to the informal sector, the development new systems (e.g., within the context of social investment funds) and the upscaling of indigenous community-based and self-help groups. ESCAP convened the Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Councillors in Thailand from 19 to 22 June 2001, at which the Phitsanulok Declaration on the Advancement of Women in Local Government was adopted. The Declaration called for measures to overcome the barriers that prevent women from entering politics at the local level, with a goal of 50-50 representation between men and women in local government. Further, a regional seminar on the use of legal instruments to combat trafficking in women and children was convened at Bangkok, from 1 to 3 August 2001.

46. On 25 April 2001, the Commission adopted resolution 57/3, on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, by which it called for the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

to assist members and associate members in the promotion of gender mainstreaming and integrating gender concerns into public policy through measures which include gender budgeting, gender auditing, sex-disaggregated data and monitoring and performance indicators. To coordinate the regional activities of United Nations agencies working on gender issues, the Thematic Working Group on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality, co-chaired by ESCAP and UNIFEM, was established within the framework of the inter-agency regional coordination meeting.

47. The *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)* continued to monitor the situation of women in the region. The Government of Saudi Arabia ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on 7 September 2000, but with reservations regarding the provisions that conflict with religious convictions and national sovereignty. Other milestones included the appointment by the Government of Yemen of a woman as Minister of Human Rights. In November 2000, the League of Arab States, the National Commission for Women in Egypt and the Hariri Foundation of Lebanon convened the First Arab Summit for Women. An important decision was taken to set up a permanent coordination mechanism and to hold regular meetings for the advancement of Arab women.

48. The *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)* focused on mainstreaming a gender perspective into its six priority areas of work, namely, democratic governance, poverty reduction and pro-poor policies, sustainable energy and environment, crisis prevention and recovery, HIV/AIDS and ICT. One hundred and five UNDP country offices, covering 112 programme countries, reported in the results-oriented annual report (ROAR) for 2000 on activities in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The main focus was on advocacy, networking and partnership building, development of institutional capacity and development of gender policies and strategies.

49. In the area of policy support and capacity-building, UNDP, in its upstream interventions, focused primarily on the articulation of gender-sensitive national policies and legal frameworks and on the strengthening of national institutions for the advancement of women. UNDP facilitated the policy dialogue among stakeholders with a view to their

achieving full ownership of national gender strategies, legal reform processes for the protection of women's rights, and sectoral gender and development policies and programmes. Much was done in the collection of sex-disaggregated data in support of national reporting to the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session and in the preparation of national human development reports and the reports submitted by States parties to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

50. Further, UNDP continued to facilitate dialogue and partnerships at the national and local levels between governmental institutions and civil society and across line ministries in order to expand capacities and commitment to gender equality. In countries in special development situations, in particular post-conflict environments, UNDP has increased its support to gender-specific action in the emergency and reconstruction phases. It has recently identified the period of transition to recovery as the most critical for the implementation of the legal and institutional measures by which gender equality can be systematically integrated at all levels of recovery programmes. The UNDP global gender programme has further developed tools and methodologies to build the organizational capacity for gender mainstreaming and ensure that all of the policies and programmes of UNDP reflect gender concerns.

51. The *United Nations Volunteers (UNV)* continued its collaboration with UNDP and UNIFEM on its pilot project, entitled "Follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action: UNV support to gender mainstreaming". The operational activities of this joint project will culminate at the end of 2001, by which time all 21 specialists deployed to four geographical regions at the start of the project will have terminated their assignments. With the gradual phasing out of the activities, a comprehensive report on the project and its operational activities is expected to be issued. The report will contain recommendations on proposed methodologies for gender mainstreaming and developing synergies with other gender programmes, and an outline of a methodological framework and tools for the next phase.

52. During 2000, the *United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)* assisted Governments and civil society partners in creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Discrimination against Women through the development of information materials, public information campaigns, studies, provision of support to national committees and the work of legislative bodies with regard to the promotion of the equal rights of girls and women. In preparing for the special session of the General Assembly on children, UNICEF collaborated with the Society for International Development on a special issue, which was launched during the third session of the Preparatory Committee, held in June 2001. The purpose was to document and analyse the global experience of the complementarity of activism for children's rights and for women's rights.

53. In 2000, UNICEF stepped up its activities addressing gender issues in education. The achievement of quality girls' education was articulated by UNICEF as a key strategy in the Education for All initiative, and in several countries the development of community-based initiatives for girls' education served as a model for Education for All programming. Over 60 UNICEF programmes throughout the world now focus on girls' education. Increases in enrolment rates of girls were reported in over 20 countries in 2000. Globally, an estimated 10,000 schools in 46 countries benefited from some form of UNICEF support to improve the learning environment experienced by children, while roughly 270,000 teachers and school principals participated in training programmes directly supported by UNICEF.

54. Gains were also made in 2000 through UNICEF efforts to combat female genital mutilation in 16 countries. The involvement of young people in Eritrea and initiatives to involve religious leaders in Somalia and former practitioners in the Niger provide lessons for replication. The approach to eradicating the practice is moving from single sector, vertical interventions to community-based action and information, supported by new tools for the assessment of practices and the measurement of change. UNICEF made specific contributions to the addressing of harmful practices, including organizing a global consultation on the issue of early marriage and supporting efforts to delay the age of marriage in the Asian and African regions. In October 2000, the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre invited experts from around the world to review a draft of a digest on early marriage and outline future strategies to address that issue. The digest was launched in March 2001. Furthermore, UNICEF supported a study on early marriage and early

pregnancy in six countries in West Africa. The study concluded that to reduce the incidence of early marriage and early pregnancy, national programmes and policies must address the social, cultural and economic factors that contribute to their persistence.

55. The *United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)* supports the implementation of the international agenda within its mandate by promoting gender equality within key programme areas, such as reproductive health, population and development, and advocacy. UNFPA allocates more than 60 per cent of its resources to activities that help to increase access to reproductive health and to prevent the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, focusing on women and girls.

56. Further, UNFPA helps to provide services and information on reproductive health to adolescent boys and girls, while emphasizing the need for men's positive involvement in improving the status of women. Capacity-building for gender mainstreaming is another area supported by UNFPA, with the aim of ensuring the sustainability of gender mainstreaming. The Fund has produced two important manuals to reinforce efforts in this area: a gender mainstreaming training manual, to be used in staff training, and a programme guide for health-care providers and managers on gender-based violence. In addition, gender equality and empowerment of women constitute part of the principal organizational goals of the multi-year funding framework of the Fund.

57. In 2001, UNFPA is convening consultative meetings on trafficking of women and children and on the impact of conflict on women and girls, which will provide important input into the development of position papers and programme strategies in these areas. UNFPA continues to support efforts to eradicate traditional harmful practices affecting women, including female genital mutilation, and was one of the funding agencies of an international technical meeting on indicators to measure change and sustainability in regard to that practice.

58. Of the approximately 83 million people provided with food aid by the *World Food Programme (WFP)* in 2000, 52 per cent were women and girls. In addition, in 2000, WFP conducted a follow-up survey of its Beijing commitments. Major achievements in that regard were as follows: more than 80 per cent of all operations have women on committees that identify beneficiaries, manage food, and identify assets to be created; 85 per

cent have reflected the commitments in programme design and contractual agreements with partners; and about 90 per cent of the country offices report sex-disaggregated data on development, though less on relief operations. WFP is still striving to allocate 60 per cent of its development resources to females and 50 per cent of its educational support to girls. Two new efforts in this regard are the WFP school feeding initiative and the provision of food assistance to families affected by HIV/AIDS. With the former, WFP aims to increase the enrolment and attendance of children from poor families, and to reduce the gender gap in primary education through the provision of take-home food rations to girls; with the latter, WFP incorporates HIV/AIDS care and prevention measures into its programmes and, through partners, supports skills training, nutrition and counselling activities for affected women and children.

59. In 2000, WFP mainstreamed a gender perspective into budgets, while gender performance was evaluated for country programmes, emergency and protracted relief and recovery operations. With the introduction of its new corporate information system in 2001, WFP began to collect data on planned and actual gender-related expenditure. New monitoring and evaluation guidelines that seek to mainstream gender concerns are being developed. A gender perspective was also mainstreamed into the material prepared for 10 workshops on core skills to implement the WFP "Enabling development" policy, held in 2001. WFP has been successful in increasing the proportion of female international Professional staff, from 25 per cent in 1996 to 36 per cent in 2000.

B. Specialized agencies

60. The *International Labour Organization (ILO)* developed a follow-up strategy to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, which was submitted to its Governing Body for adoption in November 2000. The strategy focuses on gender mainstreaming in all ILO activities within the framework of the outcome of the special session and in the ILO decent work agenda, and addresses fundamental principles and rights at work, employment and income, social protection and social dialogue. In January 2001, an inter-agency consultative meeting on gender issues developed a work plan for the implementation of the follow-up strategy, covering

programmes, projects and intersectoral research in areas of priority. More systematic efforts were made to strengthen capacity-building in two areas, namely, the further enhancement of team-building for development of regional gender mainstreaming strategies, and emphasis on capacity-building in gender analysis and planning in poverty eradication, job creation, social protection and social dialogue. More intense efforts were focused on strengthening the gender aspect in major programmes such as HIV/AIDS and crisis response, entrepreneurship development, the role of trade unions in promoting gender equality, and the convening of a seminar on sexual harassment in September 2001.

61. The Plan of Action of the *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for Women in Development (1996-2001)* outlines a framework for integrating a gender perspective into all FAO programmes and activities in response to the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The implementation of the Plan of Action is led by the Women and Population Division of the Sustainable Development Department. The Plan of Action will also be field-tested in collaboration with policy staff at regional FAO offices. The Division, in collaboration with all other FAO divisions, worked on the preparation of the new Plan of Action on Gender and Development (2002-2007) with a view to mainstreaming gender issues into all activities of the organization. Under that Plan of Action, gender analysis will be incorporated into FAO projects and will be fully taken into account in the preparation of national action plans for agricultural and rural development. In addition, several socio-economic and gender analysis workshops were held in various countries. Census studies have been organized in 2001 to improve the collection of data and information on human resources, as well as on the activities and constraints of rural populations.

62. The *International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)* has taken a number of steps to advance women within the organization, and information on the recruitment of women at ICAO forms part of its annual work programme. The ICAO Council has set a minimum target of an increase of one per cent annually for the appointment of women at the Professional level over the forthcoming 10 years. The number of Professional posts held by women at ICAO rose from 64 in 1998, to 66 in 1999, and to 72 in 2000. National

civil aviation administrations remain the principal source of recruitment. The representation of women in the administrations, in particular in technical positions, is an important factor in the number of applications submitted by women. ICAO pays particular attention to that source of recruitment. The Secretary-General of ICAO has requested officers who are on mission or servicing meetings at its regional offices to continue their efforts to identify women candidates with qualifications and work experience corresponding to ICAO positions. The ICAO technical cooperation programme provides fellowships in specific fields of training and encourages women to apply.

63. The *World Bank* has prepared a gender mainstreaming strategy paper and created an internal incentive fund for the implementation of the proposed strategy. Projects supported by the World Bank include a women and justice project in Argentina, a community empowerment project in East Timor, and a study of the possible impact of legal frameworks on women's economic participation in the Middle East and North Africa. The World Bank's Development Marketplace supported several innovative gender projects, including those on female genital mutilation in Africa.

64. Among recent World Bank publications was the report, *Engendering Development — Through Gender Equality in Rights, Resources, and Voice*. The report brings together existing and new research from several social science disciplines to examine the costs of persistent gender disparities to the well-being of women and the development prospects of societies. The report has been translated into several languages, including Russian, Chinese and Vietnamese, and further translations are planned. The World Bank also produced a chapter on gender for the *Poverty Reduction Strategy Sourcebook*. The chapter is designed to guide those involved in the preparation of poverty reduction strategy papers in identifying and implementing gender-sensitive policies and programmes. The *Sourcebook* is available in French, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese.

65. The World Bank's statistical indicators on gender were broadened and now include a separate database on gender statistics in the Latin American region. Several new initiatives were launched, including those on gender and HIV/AIDS, gender and economic policy, and a series of seminars on gender and the digital divide. The World Bank also initiated the Development Gateway, a web portal containing information on

various development topics, including gender, and convened training courses, workshops, seminars and knowledge-sharing events on various topics, such as technology and gender, the gender dimension of human rights, and gender, post-conflict and HIV/AIDS.

66. The *International Telecommunication Union (ITU)* held a special event on gender and emergency telecommunications during the session of the ITU Council held in 2000. In 2001, ITU hosted a panel discussion on the ITU reform process, change and gender. The Council, in its discussion of the ITU reform in 2001, also elaborated the first gender-related resolution adopted at ITU. The resolution, on gender perspective in ITU human resources, management, policy and practice, was adopted by the Council in June 2001. A workshop on gender issues was conducted for ITU staff in the second quarter of 2001, resulting in the submission of a business plan and an action plan to ITU management for implementation. Within the context of inter-agency cooperation and based on the memorandum of understanding signed in 2000 between ITU, UNIFEM and UNDP, work was initiated on the inclusion of a gender perspective in the preparations for and outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society, the first phase of which will be held at Geneva in December 2003 and the second phase at Tunis in 2005.

67. The Task Force on Gender Issues, established in 1998, continued its work on incorporating a gender perspective into telecommunication policy. A pilot session was convened at the development symposium for regulators, held in November 2000. In addition, the Task Force developed gender awareness guidelines for use by licensing and regulatory bodies to mainstream gender awareness into the licensing and regulatory functions of national agencies. A gender questionnaire was disseminated to regulators and telecommunication administrations in 2000 and 2001, with a positive response expressing interest in receiving advice and/or assistance in implementing gender equality strategies. Three gender-training workshops were carried out for the trainers of the multinational telecommunication training institute at Dakar. In 2000, ITU continued to recruit more women than men and achieved a net increase of six in the number of women and an increase in the proportion of women, to 25 per cent of all staff in the Professional and higher level categories compared to 23 per cent at the end of 1999.

68. The *World Meteorological Organization (WMO)* has made progress with regard to several of its gender related objectives. In particular, there has been a significant increase in the hiring of women in the Professional or higher categories over the past two years; women now make up over 25 per cent of the staff in those categories, up from about 20 per cent. A major international conference on women in meteorology and hydrology is being organized. This event will examine the progress made since the convening of the conference on the same topic in 1997, and will focus on charting future courses of action in the following areas that are critical to gender equality and gender mainstreaming in WMO activities, namely, education and training, career and promotion opportunities, work environment policies and practices, participation in the work of WMO and representation of women in the WMO secretariat.

69. A survey of all WMO member countries concerning the participation of women in meteorological and hydrological services is being carried out in conjunction with the preparations for the above-mentioned conference. WMO continues to highlight the contribution of women in meteorology and hydrology through articles in the WMO bulletin and the development of a web site. In June 2001, WMO hosted the annual meeting of the Organizational and Institutional Gender Information Network (ORIGIN). Discussions between ORIGIN members and the WMO gender team have led to preliminary steps being taken towards the development of a gender policy for WMO.

70. In 1999, the *International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)* undertook an extensive review of gender mainstreaming in its project and programme portfolio, which was presented to the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session. In 2000, the Fund embarked on a major effort to enhance gender mainstreaming. Special programmes are either being continued or about to be initiated in all IFAD regional divisions and in the Technical Advisory Division. Funding for the purpose has been mobilized from a combination of grant and trust funds. At present, about one half of IFAD-approved projects systematically address gender issues. During the biennium 2000-2001, IFAD also laid the basis for a gender web site, with the preparation of over 130 gender learning notes and other gender materials. The web site will be operational in September 2001. The Fund is making progress in

increasing the representation of women in professional and managerial positions, although some imbalance continues, in particular at the senior, decision-making levels. IFAD is embarking on a plan of action to improve gender balance and staffing at all levels.

71. The *United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)* continued to take steps to ensure gender equality in its personnel practices and to address gender issues in programmatic activities. It has developed an integrated programme approach to improve services in the various fields of industrial development. Within the service module aimed at the promotion of small and medium enterprises, special emphasis is placed on women entrepreneurship development, both in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Together with other activities, this effort creates an enabling environment for the integration of women in the process of socio-economic development.

72. Women play a significant role in development of microenterprises and small- and medium-sized enterprises, both as a creative and productive industrial human resource base and, increasingly, as entrepreneurs. The women's entrepreneurship development programme of UNIDO is designed to enable women entrepreneurs to meet the challenges of changing global and local economic environments. Now in its third phase, the programme in the United Republic of Tanzania trains women to start up and manage small-scale, food-processing businesses. Training covers aspects of supply, processing of local products, hygiene and business management, and has helped create nearly 350 permanent jobs. A training of trainers programme on women entrepreneurs in the food-processing sector has been completed, in collaboration with IFAD on the basis of a cost-sharing agreement. In addition, UNIDO continued its women's entrepreneurship development programme through training programmes to assist women entrepreneurs in setting up clusters in the agro-food-processing sector.

73. The *International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)* reports biennially to its Board of Governors on the progress made in implementing General Conference resolutions which have their origin in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The International Advisory Group on Gender Issues advises the Director-General on the impact of gender on IAEA programmes. Membership

of the Group is drawn from regulatory organizations, the nuclear industry, and research and academic institutes in member States. A plan of action on possible ways and means of introducing gender equality and gender mainstreaming into policies and programmes is being developed. An allocation for work on gender issues has been included on the regular budget.

C. United Nations entities

74. In October 2000, the *United Nations University (UNU)* organized a workshop on future issues in gender education and research as a means of soliciting expert advice in identifying areas in which its specific characteristics as an academic institution within the United Nations system could best be employed to promote the implementation of the Platform for Action. UNU has also increased its efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into all its research and capacity development activities. In addition, UNU continued to carry out activities related to gender issues, focusing on the areas of peace and governance with a research project on women and children in post-conflict peace-building efforts, and on the area of environment and sustainable development with projects documenting and analysing the role of women in the conservation and management of natural resources.

75. The *International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)* made significant progress in the implementation of the Institute's new working method, the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System (GAINS), which enables the Institute to produce, manage and disseminate gender research, training and information globally throughout the world by means of new information and communication technologies. By using electronic networking, INSTRAW has developed an innovative approach to research, capacity-building and information-sharing. It creates online communities of researchers, trainers, ICT specialists, development practitioners and women and men activists who present and discuss relevant issues, as well as research findings, research and training needs and their implications for policy and practice.

76. The Institute has significantly developed and expanded its network of national and regional organizations, as well as individuals, which share information through a listserver, help to disseminate

information obtained through GAINS to other local-level organizations, participate in thematically based online discussion forums and virtual seminars which form part of the new research methodology of INSTRAW, and assist in the preparation of background and synthesis papers. Through GAINS, INSTRAW is also developing an ICT-based training methodology that combines the learning of ICT skills and their immediate application to networking, advocacy and knowledge-building around a selected gender theme that is relevant to participants. For the first time, INSTRAW held the twenty-first session of its Board of Trustees by virtual meeting, utilizing the GAINS system. It also organized a digital art contest and exhibit on the theme of women and peace, on the occasion of International Women's Day 2001.

IV. Other international organizations

77. The *International Organization for Migration (IOM)* continued to work extensively on the issue of trafficking in human beings, the main victims of which are women and girls. Its efforts to combat the scourge of trafficking focus mainly on prevention and assistance to victims. It also assisted victims of trafficking to return to their home countries, providing safe shelter and medical assistance while they waited to return and reintegration assistance to start a new life at home. Moreover, in July 2000, a global emergency fund was launched to assist trafficked women and children in countries in which there are no existing programmes to care for them. The fund provides resources for protection, return and reintegration.

78. Further, IOM established a five-year plan of action (1998-2002) that addressed the needs and concerns of migrant women on the one hand, and gender balance within the organization on the other. A network of gender focal points has been established at field missions and comprises over 80 staff members throughout the world. In addition to promoting gender mainstreaming into the activities carried out by a field mission, the gender focal points prepare yearly plans of action outlining the specific activities undertaken at their missions to implement the objectives of the gender policy. In 2001, an important initiative in gender mainstreaming was the introduction of a budget allocation for project initiatives that strengthen awareness of gender issues in the context of migration. Eight pilot projects having a specific gender dimension

and a clear demonstration of the concept of gender mainstreaming are being sponsored from this budget.

V. Reported activities of non-governmental organizations and other institutions of civil society

79. Non-governmental organizations continued to pursue the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly at the local, national and international levels. While these activities were not reported systematically to the Secretariat, some are noted here as examples of the widespread follow-up activities of civil society.

80. Non-governmental organizations participated actively in the forty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, with 653 individuals representing 296 organizations attending. Prior to the session, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women held a one-day briefing on the upcoming discussion. During the session, non-governmental organizations organized most of the 129 side events held, which provided opportunities for a dialogue among representatives of government, civil society and the United Nations system. The Division for the Advancement of Women jointly sponsored two panels with non-governmental organizations, one on women, girls and HIV/AIDS together with the Medical Women's International Association, and another on gender and racial discrimination together with the Centre for Women's Global Leadership.

81. Non-governmental organizations also promoted cross-cutting dialogue during the meetings of other United Nations commissions and conferences. During the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights, for example, the Conference of Non-governmental Organizations (CONGO) organized meetings on gender and HIV/AIDS, armed conflict and women at the negotiation table and on gender, racism and sustainable development. CONGO also facilitated an event on girls as their own advocates during the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the special session of the General Assembly on children, and a discussion of the African perspective on gender and HIV/AIDS during the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS. At the Third World Conference on the Least Developed Countries, non-

governmental organizations organized the event on sustainable development and selected gender items in the least developed countries. During the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Women's Environment and Development Organization and UNIFEM brought together women from around the world to develop strategies for making the Conference proceedings more gender sensitive.

82. Substantial activity by non-governmental organizations took place in connection with the discussion by the Security Council of women, peace and security in October 2000, and with the International Women's Day 2001 under the same theme. The Hague Appeal for Peace has launched a campaign for global peace education to promote women's rights as an integral part of any peace process. International Alert spearheads a global campaign to put women's voices at the heart of peacemaking, with the title "Women Building Peace: From the Village Council to the Negotiation Table". The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom organized an event in New York which brought together 30 women from conflict zones throughout the world. The women shared best practice and discussed strategies concerning partnerships with Governments in the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

83. To support women's advocacy, the International Women's Tribute Centre published a brochure with information on the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly, on the forty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and on upcoming global meetings. The Centre for Women's Global Leadership coordinates the annual global campaign against gender violence. In 2000, the campaign was linked to the twenty-third special session of the Assembly and to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

VI. Conclusion

84. During the period under review, the organizations of the United Nations system continued to pursue activities in follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special

session of the General Assembly. Much attention is being focused on the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session. Many organizations in the United Nations system have increased their efforts at mainstreaming a gender perspective in their work programmes.

Notes

¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/52/3/Rev.1)*, chap. IV, para. 4.

⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 7 (E/2001/27)*, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II.

⁵ *Ibid.*, draft resolution III.

⁶ *Ibid.*, draft resolution IV.

⁷ *Ibid.*, draft resolution I.

⁸ *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 3 (E/2001/23)*, chap. I, draft decision 2.

⁹ *Ibid.*, draft decision 27.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, draft decision 41.

